

REMARKS

(3) The Examiner objects to the term "power struts" in line 6 of claim 2. The claim has been deleted.

(1) The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Rennex 6,684,531. This rejection is respectively traversed. The examiner indicates that the Rennex patent has a first tandem hinge comprising the elements of applicant's invention. Claim 2 has been canceled and claim 1 has been amended to add clarity. The primary tandem hinge of applicant's invention is shown clearly in FIGS. 4-6 and described on page 17 under Embodiment 2. The linkages between the hinge members provide "true perpendicular movement," in that the upper heel sole neither shifts nor tilts forward, backward or laterally with respect to the lower heel sole. In other words, the upper heel sole maintains both horizontal synchronization and lateral synchronization with the lower sole, thereby preventing the feeling of walking on ice as would be with the prior art. The prior art has a tandem hinge in which the hinges closing in a first direction are linked by a connecting rod (24 of Rennex FIG 5a), but have no connection to the hinges closing in the opposite direction. Applicant's invention has linkages between the opposing hinges. The connecting rods "are always engaged together so they remain slidably connected to one another. This is

accomplished through the use of the coupling tube (CT)." See FIG. 4 and associated description in the specification for a detail of this mechanism. The coupling tube linkage can also be accomplished by placing the primary connecting rod (linkage) inside the primary opposing connecting rod or by placing the primary opposing connecting rod inside the primary connecting rod as shown in Fig 22. Claims 18 through 21 have been added to clearly claim this relationship.

Furthermore, applicant's invention has a secondary tandem hinge in the toe area of the suspension shoe. The secondary tandem hinge is different from the primary tandem hinge in that the secondary tandem hinge has hinges closing in only one direction that are linked together. This form of a tandem hinge permits forward and backward movement or sliding of the upper toe sole with respect to the lower toe sole. This is important when the user's toe is on the ground and heel raised, in that, the upper toe sole must slide forward with respect to the lower toe sole.

Therefore, Rennex does not anticipate applicant's claim 1 within the meaning of U.S.C. §102(e). Claim 18 has been added to further clarify applicant's invention. Therefore, it follows that the rejection of claim 1 should be withdrawn.

In view of all the above, it is believed that Claims 1, and 18-21 are novel and are now in condition for allowance. Such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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